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Department of State
TELEGRAM

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DECLASSIFICATION DATE 9-13-76

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ACTION EUR 22

PER J. Pichowsky OFFICE Eu

FADRC FOI CASE NO. 630345 MacKinnon

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4729
INFO USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS OTTAWA 727

SUBJECT: TRUDEAU ON SAFEGUARD ABM SYSTEM

1. SUMMARY. PRIMIN TRUDEAU QUESTIONED AT LENGTH
BY OPPOSITION DURING COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD MAY 23,
ON GOC ATTITUDE TOWARD SAFEGUARD ABM SYSTEM. PRIMIN
SAID GOC HAS NOT YET REACHED CONCLUSION ON WHETHER
SAFEGUARD INCREASES OR DECREASES POSSIBILITY OF:

ARMS ESCALATION, BUT ADDED THAT GOC NOT
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SYSTEM. ASKED WHETHER ABM
DECISION SHOULD BE LEFT ENTIRELY TO U.S., TRUDEAU
SAID IT UNLIKELY THAT ANY CANADIAN MORAL JUDGMENT
WOULD AFFECT US POSITION; THAT POSITION WILL BE
CONSEQUENCE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN US. WHEN
PRESSED
FURTHER, PRIMIN SAID IF GOC HAD POWER TO MAKE DECISION,
IT WOULD SUGGEST THAT ABM SYSTEM NOT BE INSTALLED,
BUT THEN GOC WOULD ALSO HAVE TO MAKE DECISION TO SEE
THAT SOVIETS DO NOT ESCALATE ARMS. TRUDEAU SAID
THERE ARE NO US-CANADIAN DISCUSSIONS ON ABM GOING
ON AT PRESENT. TEXT OF EXCHANGE,
FROM UNCLEAR
HANSARD "BLUES" FOLLOWS: END SUMMARY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Mark Pichowsky

DATE 7/15/80

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Handwritten: Ottawa 727
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29 BREWIN (NDP): MR. SPEAKER, MY QUESTION IS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. SINCE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ABM SAFEGUARD SYSTEM HAS BEEN BEGUN IN THE UNITED STATES AND SINCE THE PRIME MINISTER IN AN EARLIER STATEMENT TO THIS HOUSE SAID THAT CANADA'S ATTITUDE TO THE SYSTEM AND PARTICIPATION IN IT WOULD BE BASED ON WHETHER IT CONTRIBUTED TO WAR OR PEACE OR TO THE ESCALATION OF THE ARMS RACE, WILL THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE NEAR

FUTURE MAKE A STATEMENT TO THIS HOUSE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS SYSTEM?

3. PRIMIN TRUDEAU: WELL, MR. SPEAKER, I HOPE I DID NOT LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WANTED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THIS SYSTEM. I INDICATED THAT THE POSITION WE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE IN JUDGING THIS SYSTEM WOULD BE BASED ON WHETHER IT INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY OF NUCLEAR ARMS ESCALATION OR WHETHER IT DECREASES IT. WE HAVE NOT REACHED ANY CONCLUSION ON THIS YET.

4. BREWIN: A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, MR. SPEAKER. WILL THE PRIME MINISTER LET THE HOUSE KNOW WHAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE IS TO THIS SYSTEM BEFORE THE HOUSE ADJOURNS FOR THE SUMMER?

5. TRUDEAU: MR. SPEAKER, THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT, I THINK, WOULD NOT BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ATTITUDE OF THE OPPOSITION. WE ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE SYSTEM, BUT THIS IS A DEFENCE SYSTEM BEING BUILT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. WHETHER IT WILL PREVENT A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST IS A CONSIDERATION THAT IS IN ALL OUR MINDS. BUT WE CANNOT BE PRESSED INTO MAKING ANY RAPID DECISIONS ABOUT THE DEFENCE SYSTEMS OF OTHER NATIONS, WHETHER THEY BE THE SOVIET UNION, JAPAN, CHINA OR OTHER COUNTRIES. WE ARE MAINLY BUSY NOW WITH CONSIDERING OUR OWN DEFENCE SYSTEMS AND OUR OWN POLICIES FOR DEFENCE.

6. STANFIELD (LEADER OF OPPOSITION): A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, MR. SPEAKER, AM I TO ASSUME FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME MODIFICA-

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TION IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE AS EXPRESSED BY THE PRIME MINISTER DURING THE DEBATE IN THIS HOUSE? WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE THAT IT FELT IT NECESSARY TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND FELT OBLIGED TO CONDEMN THE SYSTEM IF IT CONCLUDED THAT THE PROPOSED MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE? HAS THAT ATTITUDE CHANGED? HAS MY RIGHT HON. FRIEND DECIDED THAT THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE LEFT ENTIRELY TO THE DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES?

7. TRUDEAU: NO, MR. SPEAKER. THE POSITION IS STILL THE SAME. WE REALIZE IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE THIS ASSESSMENT. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT ANY MORAL JUDGMENT WE WILL ENUNCIATE WILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF EFFECT ON THE UNITED STATES POSITION. THE MORAL JUDGMENT THAT WE CAN MAKE COULD EQUALLY WELL BE MADE BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION OR BY THE LEADER OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THIS WILL BE, AS I SAY, A MORAL DECISION TAKEN BY FRIENDLY NATIONS. BUT DEBATE IS GOING ON IN THE UNITED STATES, AND IF THEIR POLICY IS TO REMAIN OR IS TO BE CHANGED, THAT DECISION WILL COME ABOUT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE UNITED STATES DEBATE AND NOT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF STATEMENTS MADE IN THIS HOUSE.

8. STANFIELD: A FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, MR. SPEAKER. IF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WERE TO EXPRESS AN OPINION AND MORAL JUDGMENT TO A FRIENDLY NATION IS IT NOT MORE LIKELY THAT THE PUBLIC OFFICERS OF THAT FRIENDLY NATION WOULD CONSIDER MORE SERIOUSLY CANADA'S REPRESENTATIONS IF THEY WERE MADE AT AN EARLY DATE BEFORE CONGRESS HAS BECOME INVOLVED TOO SERIOUSLY IN THE DEBATE OR BEFORE A DECISION IS REACHED?

9. TRUDEAU: PERHAPS THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MR. SPEAKER, COULD SPEAK OUT STRONGLY AND STATE HIS POSITION ON THIS MATTER. WE SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS BECAUSE IT MIGHT GUIDE US IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S

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POSITION:

10. STANFIELD: MR. SPEAKER, MAY I REMIND THE PRIME MINISTER THAT IT WAS HE WHO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAD A MORAL OBLIGATION TO EXPRESS ITS VIEW ON THIS MATTER AFTER HAVING ASSESSED THE SITUATION. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD DO SO.

11. DOUGLAS (NDP LEADER): YES, MR. SPEAKER, I HAVE A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION. SINCE CANADA WILL CERTAINLY BE AFFECTED BY ANY DECISION REACHED WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ABM SAFEGUARD SYSTEM, HAVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA BEEN MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES? ARE ANY DISCUSSIONS GOING ON AT ANY LEVEL BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THIS ABM SYSTEM?

12. TRUDEAU: MR. SPEAKER, THE POINT I AM TRYING TO MAKE IS THAT CANADA WILL BE AFFECTED, BUT THE WHOLE WORLD ALSO WILL BE AFFECTED. IF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS IN THIS AREA I THINK WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE ABM SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE PROCEEDED WITH. BUT WE SHOULD ALSO HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION TO SEE THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT ESCALATE THEIR ARMS, AND TO SEE THAT THEY DO NOT BUILD AN ABM SYSTEM AROUND MOSCOW. BUT OUR WRIT DOES NOT EXTEND TO THE UNITED STATES OR THE SOVIET UNION. REALLY, THE HOUSE IS ASKING ME TO STATE A MORAL POSITION. OUR POSITION IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT NO ESCALATION WILL BE EMBARKED UPON BY EITHER SIDE.

13. DOUGLAS: A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION
MR. SPEAKER.

I WAS NOT ASKING THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE MOMENT TO MAKE ANY MORAL JUDGMENT. I WAS ASKING HIM A SIMPLE QUESTION. HAVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS BEEN MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ARE ANY DISCUSSIONS GOING ON BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AT ANY LEVEL?

14. TRUDEAU: MR. SPEAKER, I THINK MY ANSWER INDI-

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CATED THAT THE INPUT -- IF THAT IS THE TERM -- INTO SUCH REPRESENTATIONS AT THIS STAGE WOULD BE VERY VAGUE AND ONLY OF A MORALISTIC NATURE. THEREFORE THE IMPLICATIONS OF MY STATEMENT ARE THAT THERE ARE NO SUCH DISCUSSIONS GOING ON AT THE PRESENT TIME. WHEN I WENT TO THE UNITED STATES THERE WERE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MYSELF AND BETWEEN SOME OF THEIR OFFICIALS AND MINISTERS AND OURSELVES. WE ENTERED INTO THOSE EXCHANGES IN ORDER TO GAIN MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR CASE FOR HAVING AN ABM SYSTEM. WE HEARD THIS CASE. THEIR CASE RESTS ON THEIR BELIEF

THAT THEY ARE NOT ESCALATING ARMS; THEY ARE TRYING TO RESPOND TO AN ABM SYSTEM ALREADY BUILT IN THE SOVIET UNION. THEY ARE NOT TRYING TO EMBARK ON NUCLEAR ESCALATION THAT IS BEING STARTED BY THE SOVIET UNION. I THINK EACH COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO STATE WHAT ITS MORAL POSITION ON THIS QUESTION IS. I HAVE STATED OUR POSITION. ONCE AGAIN, I DO NOT THINK THAT THIS WILL HELP TO SOLVE THE DEBATE GOING ON IN THE UNITED STATES. IT WILL NOT HELP IF A PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA SAYS TO THE UNITED STATES WHAT HE THINKS THEY SHOULD BE DOING. THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO THIS DEBATE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THOSE TWO SIDES ARE CARRYING ON THE DEBATE VERY VIGOROUSLY AND STRONGLY.

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